

January 15, 1974

alcohol is the cause or is affiliated with about 50% of the fatal accidents across the nation, including the state of Nebraska. We don't know that, we just guess that, we assume that. I noticed an interesting sign as we were travelling down "O" Street the other night here in Lincoln, which really tells the truth, when it comes to highway safety. It says we slow down to save gas, but we won't slow down to save lives. If you will remember we tried to reduce the speed limit that was killed but we will reduce the speed limit to save gas. Now I think that speed is probably one of the big factors in the traffic fatalities. I think that this type of action or this type of legislation will help solve this question to find out if the highway safety program is headed in the right direction. We have three pieces of correspondence here for the department of transportation, the Governor's office and a man in Kansas City with regards to the highway construction funds if anybody wants to talk to me or look about that. I think that I have pretty much covered this. You have been aware of this bill for the last year. Therefore I would try and answer any questions that I could and also I would ask that you approve this amendment and get this bill off of General File to E & R.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion of the amendment? Senator Epke? Speaking on the amendment only.

SENATOR EPKE: Mr. President, fellow members, I have a couple of questions of Senator Barnett. Senator Barnett in section six, you read part of that section but right at the end of it it says unless necessary solely to prove compliance with this act. Can you explain that a little bit just what that means?

SENATOR BARNETT: This act, actually Senator Epke this act is an act to have records. To have statistics and that is exactly what that means. This is one of the big concerns where the Attorney General representative who was there. This is the way that he decided that it should be written so that it could not be used for any court procedure. If there is to be a court procedure the person requesting the test will have to take two tests. Two samples.

SENATOR EPKE: Now I have one more question. Is there any provision made in this for religious reasons, I was thinking that people of certain religions might object to having this done, is there a provision for that?

SENATOR BARNETT: I did not make any provisions for that Senator Epke...are you talking about

(end belt #4)

(start belt #5)

(machine malfunction - for a few seconds)

but for I assume for the County Attorney benefit who is the acting coroner and designates people to do this job.

: I'm sure that this is true of probably Lincoln and Omaha but I think that our rural areas may have some problems. The reason I raise the question. Here again if I may say so I think that we are doing something on the floor that is in reality that has not been open to the public for a hearing. I still question the coroners as a whole are going to approve